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Ministry of Education

DEVON GARDENS SEISMIC UPGRADE TO MAKE STUDENTS SAFER

DELTA – The Province has approved \$3.1 million in seismic upgrades to Devon Gardens elementary school to help make students and staff safer in the event of an earthquake, Education Minister Shirley Bond announced today.

“School safety is a top priority for our government,” said Bond. “The upgrade to Devon Gardens elementary is part of the Province’s \$1.5-billion seismic plan and another step towards making all schools in B.C. earthquake safe.”

The funding will be used to seismically upgrade the school’s two-storey classroom wing, the single-storey wing and the gymnasium. The upgrade will include strengthening the corridor walls and the existing wood roof of the two-storey classroom, and then separating this wing from the remaining section of the school. Other seismic work will involve reinforcing the concrete columns, concrete block walls and the existing wood roof of the single-storey wing and the gymnasium.

“The funding is a wonderful New Year’s gift for the Delta School District, the students and staff at Devon Gardens,” said Kelly Guichon, school board chair. “Devon Gardens is over 43 years old and now we can begin the necessary seismic work that will improve the safety and learning environment of our students.”

The work on Devon Gardens elementary will take place over a 10-month period and is expected to be completed by December 2007. Devon Gardens opened in 1963, with subsequent additions built between 1964 and 1995. It is one of five Delta schools approved for seismic upgrades worth a total of \$10.3 million.

Since 2001, the Province has invested over \$29 million in the Delta school district for 10 capital projects. During the same period, the Province has invested \$967 million on 26 new schools, 27 replacements, 140 additions and 28 renovations. By the end of 2007-08, the Province will have invested more than \$2.2 billion in school capital and maintenance projects across British Columbia.

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